

An Urgent Message on Transportation

from your
State Representatives

Rep. Cheryl Pflug

Phone: (360) 786-7852

E-mail: pflug_ch@leg.wa.gov

Rep. Glenn Anderson

Phone: (360) 786-7876

E-mail: anderson_gl@leg.wa.gov

Toll-free hotline:
1-800-562-6000

Survey results will be available online after May
30 at: [www.leg.wa.gov/house/members/
d5survey.htm](http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/members/d5survey.htm)



Rep. Pflug



Rep. Anderson

May 2001

Dear Neighbors,

There is no debating that our region needs traffic congestion relief. Figuring out how to pay for those improvements is a difficult matter, however.

The revenue being collected through gas and other transportation-related taxes isn't nearly enough to pay for the backlog of maintenance and expansion needed to increase the safety and capacity of our roads.

This shortfall is made worse because the governor and many Democrat leaders in the Legislature have refused to adopt efficiency measures that would reduce the cost of transportation maintenance and improvement projects. Such measures include **competitive bidding, revising prevailing wage laws to account for regional differences, and streamlining the environmental permitting process (without lowering standards) to make it faster and less expensive.**

On May 2, Gov. Gary Locke finally proposed a transportation plan, which is a very welcome development. Whether we like the plan or not, at least it helps get discussions moving. Now is the time for you to let us know what you think.

At present, we are not in favor of any proposal that does not include all the efficiencies listed in paragraph three. We believe the state must use money collected for transportation as efficiently as possible before it asks you for more taxes. Otherwise, we believe the state will run out of money before we complete all the necessary projects. Do you support our stance, or disagree?

Whatever your views, we need to hear from you as quickly as possible. Pick up the phone and call us, or send an e-mail message, using the numbers and addresses listed at upper left.

Thank you for reading this. We hope to hear from you very soon.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Pflug

Glenn Anderson

Rep. Cheryl Pflug
Rep. Glenn Anderson
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OLYMPIA, WA
PERMIT NO 92

CALL, E-MAIL or WRITE US with your views on TRANSPORTATION!

We need to hear from you!!!

We may be voting soon on a statewide transportation package. In order to best represent your interests, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact us as quickly as possible with your comments and views on transportation.

Gov. Locke's plan is to raise \$9.36 billion over the next decade through three tax and fee increases. He wants to raise the gas tax by seven cents per gallon: four cents in January and three cents two years after that. He wants to add a 2 percent surcharge on the sales tax on new or used motor vehicles. He wants a 50 percent increase in the gross weight fees paid by truckers. And he wants to put at least one of these proposals before voters in November.

Because \$9.36 billion is far less than what is needed statewide over the next 10 years, another component of the plan is regionalization -- meaning that additional taxes (the governor estimates \$7.84 billion) would be raised locally and spent on local projects. This offers us a chance to prioritize local projects and keep some of our money at home. However, it can be unfair to local businesses that are forced to charge more taxes and therefore be less competitive. It is also questionable as to whether or not I-405 is really just a local road.

Finally, we must pay attention to voting dynamics and project selection. Will Seattle voters override the will of the outlying areas and force us to pay for projects, such as Sound Transit, that are not helpful to our part of King County?

We are committed to a workable transportation package this year. Please take a minute to consider the following so WE CAN FIGHT FOR YOUR PRIORITIES!

1. Are you willing to pay more at the gas pump?
2. Pay more at the auto dealer?
3. Pay more at the grocery store, if increased trucking fees mean higher grocery prices?
4. Do you support the regional concept of raising additional taxes locally to be spent on local projects?
5. Democrat leaders want to reserve 30 percent of all funds for transit. Do you agree?
6. Do you support our plan to insist on efficiencies to reduce the cost of transportation maintenance and improvement projects?
 - Use competitive bidding
 - Streamline the environmental permitting process, without lowering standards, to make it faster and less expensive
 - Revise prevailing wage laws to account for regional differences

**Please call, e-mail or write us with your answers
and views on the above six questions at:**

Toll-free hotline: 1-800-562-6000;

E-mail: pflug_ch@leg.wa.gov or anderson_gl@leg.wa.gov;

Write: PO Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600